In re Patent Application of:

RIMI ET AL.

Serial No. 10/768,400

Filing Date: January 30, 2004

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the present application, and for correctly indicating that dependent Claims 28-32 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Independent Claim 25 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent Claim 28 and intervening dependent Claim 27 indicated as being patentable over the prior art.

Independent Claims 18, 23, and 36 have been amended in a similar fashion to include the subject matter of dependent Claims 27 and 28, and these claims are allowable as the prior art fails to disclose all of the features recite therein.

New independent Claim 38 corresponds to dependent Claim 32 rewritten in independent form and was indicated as allowable. New independent Claim 41 corresponds to independent Claim 23 with the addition of the subject matter of dependent Claim 32 and intervening dependent Claim 27, and is patentable as the prior art fails to disclose all of the features recited therein.

New independent Claim 43 corresponds to independent Claim 18 with the addition of the subject matter of dependent Claim 32 and intervening dependent Claim 27, and is patentable as the prior art fails to disclose all of the features recited therein. New independent Claim 46 corresponds to independent Claim 36 with the addition of the subject matter of dependent Claim 32 and intervening dependent Claim 27, and is patentable as the prior art fails to disclose all of the features recited therein.

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Dependent Claims 20, 24, 29-31, and 37 have been amended, and dependent Claims 27, 28, and 32 have been canceled, for consistency.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims, it is submitted that all the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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